

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29228 131833Z

64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 NEA-10

EA-11 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01

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R 131717Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR-FUEL SHORTAGES-INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

REF: STATE 221740

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF WHICH FORTUITOUSLY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH PETROLEUM AND CIVAIR QUESTIONS INFORMS US THAT AT PRESENT THERE IS NO PROBLEM REFUELING AIR-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29228 131833Z

CRAFT OF FRENCH AND FOREIGN CARRIERS AT PARIS AIRPORTS.

(TWA OPERATIONS OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED TO US ABSENCE OF ANY RESTRICTIONS WHATEVER IN THIS REGARD AT ORLY.) NEITHER AIR FRANCE NOR UTA HAS YET ELIMINATED ANY FLIGHTS DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGES AND ONLY ACTION TAKEN THUS FAR HAS BEEN ISSUANCE OF ORDERS TO AIRCRAFT CREWS TO MAXIMIZE FUEL ECONOMY ON ALL FLIGHTS. HOWEVER, REFUELING PROBLEMS MAY SHORTLY REQUIRE AIR FRANCE TO CURTAIL SERVICE TO CERTAIN POINTS, E.G., LEBANON, TURKEY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, BURMA. CARRIER HAS ALREADY ELIMINATED SOME REFUELING STOPS AT MONTREAL BECAUSE OF FUEL SHORTAGE THERE.

2. INCOMMUNIQUE RELEASED OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, AIR FRANCE HAD INDICATED THAT NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN REFUELING HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED ELSEWHERE THAN AT MONTREAL. COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT AIR FRANCE NONETHELESS IS STUDYING SERIES OF MEASURES FOR ECONOMIZING FUEL AND ALSO REDUCING IMPACT HIGHER FUEL PRICES ON OPERATING COSTS THOUGH ADJUSTMENT CERTAIN OPERATING RULES AND FLYING AT SLOWER SPEEDS. HOWEVER, AIR FRANCE NOTED, SUCH MEASURES PRESUPPOSE SOME CONCERTED ACTION WITH OTHER AIRLINES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT REPS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AIRLINES HAD MET AT BRUSSELS TWO WEEKS AGO TO DISCUSS FUEL SHORTAGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS, BUT AT THAT TIME CONSENSUS WAS OPTIMISTIC. HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS HELD OR PLANNED AMONG EUROPEAN AIRLINES AS A RESULT OF GENERAL WORSENING OF FUEL SITUATION.

4. THIS OFFICIAL SAID THAT AS RESULT AVAILABILITY OF AVIATION FUEL AT PARIS AND RELATIVELY TROUBLE-FREE OPERATIONS FRENCH CARRIERS TO DATE, NO OVER-ALL GOV PLAN HAD YET BEEN DRAWN UP TO HIS KNOWLEDGE FOR COPING WITH CIVILIAN IMPLICATIONS FOR FRANCE OF AN EVENTUAL FUEL SHORTAGE. HOWEVER, HE WARNED, THIS ESTIMATE BASED ON "VERY SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK" AND SITUATION COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY.

5. AFP REPORTS THAT TRANSPORT MINISTER GUENA IN SPEECH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 29228 131833Z

BEFORE AERONAUTICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION IN PARIS NOV. 12 INDICATED THAT QUESTION OF FUEL SAVING BY AIRLINES WAS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY WITHIN TRANSPORT MINISTRY. IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, SUPPLIES, JET FUEL, AIR SCHEDULES, AIRLINES, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS29228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731137/aaaabbdb.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 221740
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR-FUEL SHORTAGES-INTERNATIONAL AVIATION
TAGS: ETRN, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005